



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1908-01-01

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, [ca. 1908].

John Muir

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James to page in & get sight of God
said Mr. Johnson

There are a few clippings
a confused mess full of concealed
motives. You may return them
when done with them.

The objections to making H. H. a
reservoir are briefly

That such use would to a
great damaging extent defeat
the purpose & nullify the effect
of the law creating the Park.

For Hitch Hetchy is a counterpart
of Yosemite, a great & wonderful
feature of the Park, visited by
thousands even though as yet
accessible only by trails.

Summed as proposed it not
be made utterly mar

2
so that no road or trail could
be made around the reservoir
without tunnelling through rocks
like El Capitan & ~~the~~ Cathedral,
but it would block & close up
the door of the Great Involunne
Canon, the sublime way to the
upper Involunne Meadow or valley,
the focus of pleasure travel
in the High Sierra, & grand
central camp ground.

③ Because the Park is a
natural wonderland belonging
to all the world & should be
preserved in pure wildness
forever.

④ Because San Francisco Superior
& Mr Phelan want it for a C

04048

water supply, not because it cannot be got elsewhere, but because they expect to get it at less cost. Only Mr Phelan & his hired assistants & Supervisors demand this use of the Park, not the Citizens in general. In all the years since Mr Phelan made his first application I have never heard a word on the subject from anyone else or seen a line in the newspapers from any other citizen. Though all of course would be in favor of Sierra water. Marsden Manson & Warren Olney are the noisiest pleaders. The specious plea they make

of a hundred⁵ fold by camps
& travelers from all the
world. And so on with
every plea & claim &
statement.

Think what a monstrous
responsibility is piled on
Young Garfield & how heavy
must be the load however able
& strong he may be, while
submerged beneath reservoirs
of lies & lopsided truths inextric-
ably mixed. Now is he & three
& me & all the world's beauty-
lovers. That such dollar-dotted
tangles should approach
our ~~Sierra~~ ^{sacred} ~~Our~~ Sierra Temple

56
Should this noble Valley be
submerged as proposed
not only would it be
made utterly inaccessible,
but ~~the since it is the~~
~~hall of entrance to the~~
great Involunne Canon
leading to the Upper
Involunne Meadows
the focus of pleasure
travel in the High Sierra
~~this glorious canon way~~
would ^{also} be blocked -

plains and the P are the YU A H H + B. The 3 most wonderful & most important places in the
other great features of the p. - the ^{upper} Three & Last cany. & the
of the High Sierra - are the head of the canon

267

None as far as I have
learned of all the thousands
who have seen the Yosemite
Park is in favor of
this destruction ^{water} scheme.
+ The only hope of its
promotion ^{seems to lie} in the
lack of light darkness
that covers it.

04048

3-4-8 is question of invasion
still asleep on the subject
Public opinion is not
as soon as it is
yet, awakened, ^{by influence of} on the
subject, but as soon as
lights ^{reach it} as early as possible
as early as public opinion is awakened
I believe that nine tenths

or more of even the
citizens of San Francisco
would be opposed to the
destruction of the way to
scheme. The voice of their
San Francisco Board of
Supervisors is not the voice
of California nor of the
Nation.

John M

04048